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REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany /USSR

DATE DISTR. 26 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT Russian Drifters Sailing from Kaliningrad to
Novorossiisk

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

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DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Fifteen Russian drifters accompanied by the 947 ton escort vessel VITIM, passed through the Kiel Canal on 29 June 1951 coming from Kaliningrad enroute to Novorossiisk on the Black Sea. 25X1C
2. The drifters were named or numbered as follows: [REDACTED] (three of these RS trawlers were named MALUBA, SEZAVSHAN and REMA); [REDACTED] 25X1C
3. The VITIM is a converted motor schooner with three masts and two holds. The ship has a high forecastle and stern and a fairly high superstructure in the center. The ship's captain spoke good English. The ship is not over eight years old and was built in Sweder. It has a draught of five meters and can attain a speed of 12 knots.
4. The drifters appeared to be seaworthy craft and were each manned by a crew of seven to ten men. They were built about a year ago in yards in Stettin, Stralsund, Brandenburg, Wismar and Rostock.** They were 130-ton craft, about 50 to 60 meters long and had a draught of three meters. They were equipped with a 250 H.P. six cylinder engine capable of attaining a speed of 14 knots. (See attachment).
5. Although several members of the crews asserted that these were fishing craft, the pilot who accompanied the drifters through the Kiel Canal openly stated that the boats were considered to be minesweepers. All the crew members were Russian and the officers definitely belonged to the Russian Navy. The boats were not equipped with davits on the sides for other boards (sic)***. They had no fishing equipment. They were fitted out with ultra short wave, telephonic, direction finding, and echo depth-sounding equipment. They communicated with each other by means of radio telephone. The engine room telegraph, helm angle indicator, steam gauges, clocks, etc., were all produced by the People's Owned Plant in Tegel.****

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Date: 21 AUG 1978

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6. A platform is built on the stern of the ship with a roller installed at the end. A powerful electric winch, with two warping ends, is fixed on the aft deck in front of the platform. Gallows for trawling are fixed aft on both sides, which are similar to those which are installed fore on German fishing craft. Four wires were stretched on each. (See attachment). No weapons could be observed.

7. Attachment with sketch of a drifter and sketch of the platform on the after deck.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: A separate report stated that the [REDACTED] named SIRAFFIN, SOYA, and TOKSHA respectively.

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25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment: The Thaelmann Werft in Brandenburg has been reported as building 300 to 350 ton drifters which are specially constructed for the fishing industry in the Black and Caspian Seas.

*** [REDACTED] Comment: Probably minesweeping equipment (paravanes).

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*** [REDACTED] Comment: Not further identified.

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